Enhancement of crude production by ONGC

958. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has taken step to increase crude oil and natural gas production;

(b) if so, the achievement made by ONGC in that regard during the last three years;

(c) the offshore and onshore areas where ONGC is presently exploring oil and natural gas; and

(d) the target set by ONGC in the production of oil and natural gas in 2003-2004?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) In order to increase oil and gas production in its areas of operation, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has taken various steps which include the following:

(i) to improve the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes; in particular,ONGC has taken up 15 fields for this purpose at an estimated investment of Rs. 10,000 crore, which would also help in accelerating oil production from these fields.

(ii) to explore in new areas, especially in deep water and difficult frontier areas, as also explore in the deeper layers of the producing fields.

(iii) to develop faster the newly discovered fields and to step up the use of new technologies for seismic surveys, work over, stimulation operations, drilling of wells, etc. in producing areas.

(iv) to develop some of its marginal fields through service contracts.

(v) to accrete new hydrocarbon reserves through acquisition of 35,286 Ground Line Kilometre/Line Kilometre (GLK/LK) of two dimensional (2D) and 34,834 Sq. Km. of 3D seismic data and drilling of 561 exploratory wells in onland and offshore basins.

During the last three years (2000-01 to 2002-03) ONGC produced 75.77 million metric tonnes (MMT) of oil and 72.306 billion cubic metres (BCM) of gas from the areas under its operation. The ultimate reserve accretion during the above period by ONGC from the areas under its operation was 173.87 MMT of oil and oil equivalent of gas.

(c) Presently, ONGC is exploring for oil and gas in the Krishna Godavari, Cauvery, Bengal and Mahanadi Offshore basins in East Coast and Mumbai, Kutch-Saurashtra and Kerala Konkan Offshore basin in West Coast. The onland areas where ONGC has been carrying out oil and gas exploration are, Cambay, Jaisalmer, Assam and Assam Arakan, Krishna Godavari, Cauvery, Bengal, Himalayan Foreland, Ganga and Vindhyan basins.

(d) The targets set by ONGC for production of crude oil and natural gas for the year 2003-04 are 26.387 MMT and 23.317 BCM, respectively.

Increase in price of natural gas

†959. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had decided to increase the price of natural gas after 1st April, 2003;

(b) if so, by how much it will be increased and by when; and

(c) whether Government of Maharashtra has given any representation for not increasing the price of gas; if so, what are the details of the representation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government of Maharashtra has represented against increase in natural gas price as this will have adverse effect on the cost of power.

Exploration of oil and gas in Maharashtra

†960. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the projects undertaken by ONGC to explore oil and natural gas in the sea-bed of Maharashtra;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.